

THE ז'רמז SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

America's Greatest Numismatic Sculptor
Palestine Currency Board 50-Pound Notes

Mementos of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi

Jerusalem Diary — A New Feature

Medals of the Holy Land — Continued

A Marrano Medal?

A Key Court Decision on Gifts to Israel

Three New Medals from Israel

Soviet Coin Collectors Harassed

A Tribute to Solomon Handel

Club News and Others

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It continues to be an overwhelming experience to visit Israel with our AINA members who have already shown you their photos, described their adventures — and revealed the modest treasures many of them brought back from the numismatic world of the Holy

Land. A specially struck medal given to all itself alone is a lasting memento which will forever unite the members of AINA's Third Annual Israel Study Tour.

But returning home is just as magical an experience: so much AINA growth evidences, so much planning for new AINA activities!

Take for example the planning now in progress for the AINA participation in the August meeting of ANA in Washington, D.C.

You will be invited by mail . . . invited by your Israel Numismatic Society president . . . but I am delighted

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AMERICA'S GREATEST NUMISMATIC SCULPTOR

VICTOR D. BRENNER (1871-1924)

by D. Wayne Johnson

At the end of 1906, after spending a year studying in Paris, Victor David Brenner created his first portrait of Abraham Lincoln. He returned from Europe (this had been his second trip abroad) refreshed, inspired, and anxious to use some of the techniques he had mastered under his skilled mentor and instructor, medallist Louis Oscar Roty.

Perhaps the idea for a portrait of Abraham Lincoln came to him on the return voyage. The salt water, the sea air, the leisurely boat ride, are exhilarating to the artist. He was to initiate, upon his return to New York City, the most productive period of his art career — at least one major work of art a month for over two years!

Or, perhaps, the idea for a Lincoln portrait came to him simply as a news article; the centennial of Lincoln's birth was approaching in 1909 and plans were beginning to reach print. Or, it could have been a chance conversation with Robert Hewitt Jr., a collector of Lincolniana, a medal enthusiast, and a member of the active American Numismatic Society, as was Brenner.

Irrespective of when the idea first came to him, Brenner produced a plaster bas-relief of Lincoln during the winter of 1906-07. For his model he had borrowed a carte-de-visite photo from Charles Eliot Norton, a professor of art history at Harvard University and a friend of Brenner's since 1903 (Brenner had carved a marble bust of Norton that year for Harvard's Fogg Art Museum).

The small wallet-size photo has since been identified by an expert on Lincoln photographs, Lloyd Ostendorf, as one taken February 9, 1864. Ostendorf has cataloged all known Lincoln photographs, much like numismatists catalog coins and medals. Ostendorf calls this photo, and a companion taken at the same sitting, both showing Lincoln facing right, "as O-88 and O-89" in his catalog. These were taken in 1864 by Anthony Berger, manager of Brady's Gallery, 352 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

In January 1907 Brenner had his Lincoln plaster model photographed in his studio, and on January 24 sent a print along with a copyright application to the Copyright Office at the Library of Congress.

And Brenner was human. He entered the date "1906" on the copyright application much like we date our checks with last year's date far into the new year. Here's a document he should have given his full attention to, but he entered "1906" and the Copyright Office rubber stamped the correct 1907-date of receipt and processing half-a-dozen places.

Three months later, in March 1907, the Grolier Club of New York held an exhibit of Brenner's work; the Lincoln portrait was conspicuously absent. Brenner must not have been completely satisfied with his modelling.

It wasn't until 1909 that the Lincoln plaque finally appeared. A New York bronze foundry, S. Klaber & Company,



LINCOLN PORTRAITS by Victor D. Brenner — Left to right: *Lincoln photograph* by Anthony Berger, manager of Brady's Gallery; photo is O-88 and O-89 (Ostendorf). *Copy right deposit photograph* of plaster bas-relief. *Lincoln Plaque*, finished in 1907 but apparently not issued until 1909. *Lincoln Medal* (King 303 and 304), obverse bears no inscription other than "1809" and "1909"; it is believed Brenner showed this medal to President Roosevelt which led to cent design. *Lincoln Head Cent*, first released August 2, 1909.

advertised the portrait in a $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{8}$ -inch cast bronze plaque, finished in a dark brown patina, and mounted on green marble. In all, it is believed they produced slightly over one hundred of these original plaques.

In 1908, Brenner prepared the design for a round, two-sided medal bearing a similar portrait of Lincoln, but from completely new models. Detail is somewhat less than the Lincoln Plaque, but this medal is the most handsome design of all. While the expression on the copyright photo is grim, and the Lincoln Plaque is stern, Lincoln is almost smiling on this medal.

The hair is completely redone — far too curly for the real Lincoln — with a less receding hairline. A very prominent vein now appears vertically on Lincoln's forehead and the chin and neck whiskers are reshaped. A pointed end tie appears and more detailed clothing, including vest and one button.

This medal — King number 303 and 304 in a compendium of over 1000 Lincoln medals — was issued in 1908,

even though it is dated 1909. The reverse bears an eagle on the summit of a rocky cliff, facing a turbulent sea, and the inscription: "SERVE PROTECT DEFEND."

Also in 1908, Brenner was commissioned — through another friend, Frank D. Millet — to prepare a medal for the Panama Canal Commission. The obverse of this medal bears a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, who was president at the time and had been a vital force in the completion of the Canal.

Brenner met with President Roosevelt, who sat for the artist at the President's estate at Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. The story is told that at the second sitting in June 1908, Brenner showed Roosevelt his Lincoln Medal (or the Lincoln Plaque).

Roosevelt had been involved with Augustus Saint-Gaudens in a project to improve the design of American coins. (Saint-Gaudens' \$20 gold piece had been issued the year before, after a long controversy with mint officials

over the height of the relief and the inability of coins of his design to stack).

Brenner's Lincoln design appealed to Roosevelt, who suggested to Treasury officials that it appear on a coin. It was undecided which denomination should bear the portrait of the sixteenth president, even up to the last minute; both the half-dollar (news articles said the nickel) and the cent were considered.

On February 20, 1909, after more than two years work on Lincoln, the announcement was made. A Philadelphia paper carried this news item:

"Victor D. Brenner, the sculptor whose design for the new Lincoln penny was accepted Thursday, has been at work upon his model for more than a year, and for many months before that had in mind the idea of submitting this design for the coin.

"You see the life of a coin is twenty-five years according to law," Mr. Brenner explained in his studio today, "and the time for the penny and the nickel has expired. It seemed to me that the nickel already has a very practical design and so, I turned my attention to what would be most fitting for the one cent coin. Naturally the portrait of Lincoln suggested itself, this being his centennial, and besides I was going to make an anniversary medal for my friends and *my mind was full of Lincoln.*"

Brenner's mind had been full of Lincoln for nearly 26 months, while he was at his top capacity producing some of the finest works of his career — at least twenty known works of art, including such pieces as the Wright Brothers Medal, the Panama Canal Medal, a seal for the American Numismatic Society, an inlay for the Cleveland Trust Company, the National Academy of Design Saltus Medal, plaquettes bearing portraits of Carl Schurz, Adolph Werner, Katrina Trask, Spencer Trask and a badge and medal for the Tuberculosis Congress.

By May 1909 the dies for the Lincoln Head cent had been completed: first reductions and dies were made for

Brenner by Henri Weil of Medallic Art Company of New York City. The Philadelphia Mint was in production June 10, running three 25 million coins needed before the first Lincoln cents were to be issued to the public.

On August 2, 1909, at the Sub-Treasury in New York's financial district, the first Lincoln Head cents were released. Reaction was immediate! Long lines began to form of eager buyers who sought 50c or a dollar's worth. Newsboys bought up small quantities and hawked them two for a nickel.

The new coin was unprecedented for several reasons: it was the first U. S. coin intended for circulation which bore the portrait of a real person — prior coins had always carried some allegorical representation of Liberty — also it was the first minor coin to bear the legend "E Pluribus Unum," and the first cent to bear the motto "In God We Trust."

But it was the tiny initials "VDB" on the reverse which set off a controversy. Criticism, which started in Philadelphia, then spread, caused Secretary of the Treasury Franklin MacVeagh to order their removal. Roosevelt, who had lost the election to Taft ten months earlier, was of no help and was, in fact, on safari in Africa at the time.



The Motherhood Medal, declared by the Author to be the second best known work of V. D. Brenner. Photo by Larry Stevens.

PLAQUETTE COMMEMORATES BRENNER CENTENNIAL



A plaque honoring V. D. Brenner has been issued for delivery beginning on June 12th, 1971, the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the sculptor of the Lincoln penny head. It is $2 \frac{1}{16}$ th by $2 \frac{7}{16}$ ths tall. In antique bronze — \$7.50; in serial numbered antique silver — \$50.00; in gold $1/10$ 14Kt. Gold filled 2 1/2 Kt. Gold Finish — \$95.00.

AINA members may order by sending a check to Department A, Presidential Art Medals, Inc. Vandalia, Ohio 45377.

Nearly 28 million of the Lincoln Head cents with the VDB initials had been struck at Philadelphia. The mint in San Francisco had just begun their production two weeks prior; thus the scarce 1909-S VDB coinage had a total production of only 484,000 pieces — a rarity among the multimillion coinages normally required of our smallest denomination coin.

While numismatists and artists were indignant about the removal of Brenner's monogram — every artist has the obligation and right to sign his own work — the Treasury Department was undaunted, the initials stayed off the cents. Letters were published in the press and *The Numismatist* of September 1909 ran Brenner's own reaction to the affair.

New dies were prepared without the monogram and by August 14, 1909, the first of these Lincoln cents were struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Eight years later, the Treasury Department reconsidered, and ordered the initials returned; on January 2, 1918, the first Lincoln Head cents were struck with a minute "VDB" on the truncation of Lincoln's shoulder on the obverse. *Viva la artiste!*

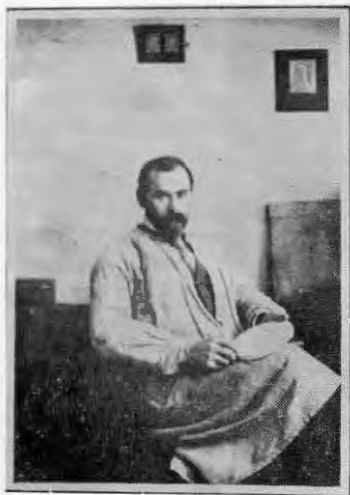
What sort of man was Brenner? What was his background to have been chosen to design a United States coin? What else had he done? was he an engraver, medallist, or sculptor? Or all three?

Victor David Brenner was born June 12, 1871, in Shavli, Lithuania, now

part of Russia. At 13 he was bar mitzvahed and apprenticed to his father, a seal cutter. As a youth of 16 and 17 he traveled as an itinerant engraver doing watch fobs, cameos, seals, and such, journeying within his local province, from Kovno to Rega and back back to Shavli. At 18 he decided to come to America. He lied about his age, giving the purser a figure of 20, boarded the German vessel *Gellert* from Hamburg, and arrived in New York May 17, 1890.

He had a traveling companion with him, Abraham Chaimsohn, a lad of 18 (or perhaps they switched ages). On the ship's records Chaimsohn was manifest as a watchmaker, Brenner as a graver; both gave Schauler, Poland as their hailing place. Traditionally the immigrant arrives pennyless — at least that's what they say when they are famous 20 or 40 years later. But little is known of Brenner's early life in America, other than he attended Cooper Union and worked for an Essex Street jeweler, Herman Popper.

In 1893 he went into business for himself as a diecutter; he prospered, saving his money whenever possible and later financed the passage of his parents, two brothers and a sister to America, and his own travels.



Victor David Brenner at work on the plaster model of the large design of the Lincoln cent.

Another story told about Brenner is his meeting Professor Sigmund Oettinger of the City College of New York. Oettinger introduced Brenner to the medal collections of the American Numismatic Society. He had never seen such beautiful medals before! He joined the Society November 19, 1894, and spent many hours studying their medal collections.

In 1895 Brenner worked as a diecutter for a New York seal and die maker, Robert Stoll. Under Stoll's employment he produced dozens of medals, including the Society of Cincinnati Medal, the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer Jubilee Medal, a Beethoven Medal, and at last six athletic award medals.

Then several events occurred which greatly influenced his career: in 1896 he enrolled at a night class at the National Academy of Design and discovered his instructor was John Quincy Adams Ward, dean of American sculptors; also, he is awarded his first major medallic commission, the William Augustus Muhlenberg Medal for the American Numismatic Society, issued for the dedication of St. Luke's Hospital, December 28, 1896.

A few months later he was awarded another important, somewhat prophetic commission: to prepare the dies for the 1897 coinage of the Dominican Republic. Brenner engraved dies of four denominations — peso, 50, 20, 10 centavos — and the coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint.

Also in 1897 he produced a magnificent portrait of Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen, for Nansen's visit to New York October 23, 1897; and a medal of a noted New York physician, John Wakefield Francis.

In 1898 Brenner did two quick medals — a second commission for the American Numismatic Society, and Charities and Correction Medal, and the Monmouth County Historical Association Plaque — then he left for Paris the first time to study under Louis Oscar Roty, the world's ranking medallist.

His desire for knowledge is compulsive. He went to Paris to learn from the masters. While there he learned how to *model* a medal, to prepare a large master pattern in plaster and reduce it to any desired size by means of the pantograph or reducing machine. By this process Brenner produced a Motherhood Medal, his second most noted work, following his Lincoln portraits.

While in Europe he completed fifteen known works, visited France, Italy, and Germany, then returned to New York June 1901, determined in his new calling as *medallist*. Previously known only as a diecutter, he was now capable of producing hand engraved dies — which he did infrequently — and the fine art medals reduced from large models which interested him more.

He opened a studio in New York, under the aegis of the American Numismatic Society, attempted to teach a class of engraving, modeling, coin and medal design. But this venture was ill fated and was dropped for lack of interest. America was not yet ready for the new field of art medals he wanted to cultivate in his adopted country.

An accomplished medallist, however, he commanded respectable commissions and did portraits of George William Curtis (Columbia University chancellor), William Maxwell Evarts (lawyer), Collis Potter Huntington (railroad magnate), Prince Henry of Prussia, John Fritz (engineer), Charles Patrick Daly (judge), Amerigo Vespucci (for whom America was named), Julia W. Oettinger (wife of his professor friend), Samuel Putnam Avery (art dealer, philanthropist), the founders of the New-York Historical Society, and many other fine art medals.

In late 1904 he returned to Paris again to study under the masters of medallic art. During this period he produced some of his finest work: the James McNeil Whistler plaque, Solomon Loeb medallion, John Paul Jones plaque, Frederick Samuel Tallmadge medal, Rupert Norton plaque, and others.



The obverse side of the medal designed in honor of the John Paul Jones ceremonials.

In 1906 he returned to America, the Lincoln portraits, and the beginning of our story. But since that time, what happened to his Lincoln cent portrait? Well, for one thing, it has been struck every year since he created it in 1909 by at least one, and often all three operating mints, of the Bureau of the Mint (Philadelphia, San Francisco, Denver). Never has the supply of cents ever caught up with the demand for more than a few months at a time, and severe cent shortages seem to occur every decade or so.

In 1959, during Lincoln's Sesquicentennial and the 50th anniversary of the Lincoln Head cent, our lowest and most used denomination got a new reverse: a view of the Lincoln Memorial in a design created by mint engraver Frank Gasparro. A decade later, Lincoln got a face lifting — the master dies had worn, engravers went back to Brenner's original pattern to prepare new dies.

But most noteworthy of all: Brenner's Lincoln Head cent has become the world's most reproduced work of art! In addition to untold millions of illustrations, the U.S. mints have produced over 50 billion tiny bronze replicas of his Lincoln portrait!

For Victor David Brenner, who died in 1924 after producing over 200 medallic pieces and dozens of sculptures, and whose famous initials were removed by an officious Treasury official, he has a distinction no other artist has ever achieved: his work touches every American every day of their life! Brenner's Lincoln portrait is in your pocket or purse now.

Reprinted from COINS, May, 1971 with permission of the Publisher and the Author.

MEMENTOS OF A GREAT MAN OF OUR TIME

*1964 issue by
Israel Post Office
on First Anniversary
of death of
Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.*



YITZHAK BEN-ZVI

1884-1963

by Dov Genachowski

Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, Second President of Israel, was born in Russia in 1884, came to Palestine in 1907, and from 1931 until independence in 1948 served as President of the "Vaad Leumi", the representative body of the Jewish community in Palestine.

He was elected to the First Knesseth in 1949, serving until elected to succeed Chaim Weizmann as President of Israel in December 1952. Reelected

in 1958 and in 1962, Ben-Zvi emphasized always his conception of the Presidency as a unifying force in the nation, above politics but very close to the people. A noted scholar and historian, he opened his heart and house to writers and scholars in many fields, not just his own of Jewish history. Ben-Zvi died in his beloved Jerusalem, on April 23, 1963.

These short lines are a preface to the numismatic part of the story. No such a short note can do real justice to the warm and encompassing character of Ben-Zvi.

In 1958, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi went on a State Visit to Belgium and the Netherlands. It was a highly successful visit, both on the formal side—the close and warm relations between Israel and these two countries are a matter of record—and on the Jewish side, with the local communities.

The illustrated medal is a souvenir of this visit. It is of silver, 59 millimeter, the same size of the Israel state medals, but rather thicker. The obverse shows in the center a stylized rendition of the coat-of-arms of Antwerpen, and above it, in French: "*Visit of the President of Israel Ben-Zvi*", and below: "*Anvers 1958 Bruxelles*" and in small letters the name of the designer, "*W. Kreitz*". The reverse shows in the center a rather simplified three-legged Menorah, round it in Hebrew: "*The Lord is the builder of Jerusalem, and will ingather the exiles of Israel*" (from Psalms, 147:2) and below "*Israel 5718*". Round the outer edge are the emblems of the twelve tribes of Israel.

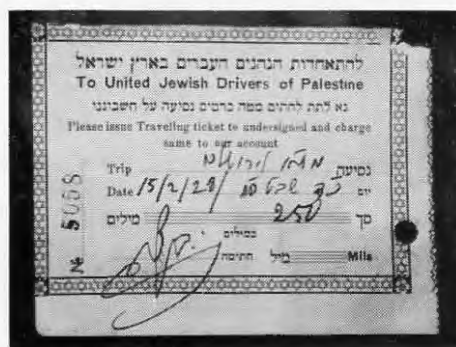
I do not know whether this is an official or a private medal, and where or by whom it was struck, though it is obvious the design was done in Belgium and probably by a Belgian designer.



1958 Medal commemorates visit of Yitzhak Ben-Zvi to Belgium. The medal is thought to be of Belgian origin.

Now let us go thirty years back, to 1928. At that time, Ben-Zvi, in Jerusalem, was the leading Jewish member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council. At the same time, he was a member of the Secretariat of the Histadruth, the General Federation of Jewish Labor, whose offices were in Tel Aviv. Obviously, he was quite often on the road. Money was scarce, and especially so that year for the Histadruth.

Hence, the illustrated chit or token, which is on paper, 95x63 millimeter, from a block. Following is the text in English, with those parts written in by Ben-Zvi by hand in Hebrew underlined: "*To United Jewish Drivers of Palestine. Please issue Traveling ticket to undersigned and charge same to our account. Trip From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Date 15/2/28 24 Shevat 28. Amount 250 Mils. Signed Y. Ben Zvi. No. 5058*". The "our" of the "our account" is the Histadruth. Ben-Zvi always used the Hebrew date, either alone or with the civilian calendar. The border is of "Magen David" with roses in the corner.



Token issued by Histadruth in 1928 for travel as authorized. Signed: Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

by Jack H. Fisher

AINA - 2497

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PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD

FIFTY POUND NOTES

Many collectors, dealers and researchers involved in the pursuit of the 50 Pounds Palestine Currency Board notes have over the past year inquired of me as to the extent and results of my approximate 10 years research and investigation. Information pertaining to the 50 Pounds notes was difficult to obtain due to the fact that records were not preserved and this denomination was rarely used in Palestine by the general population. It had such a high face value in terms of purchasing power that many residents of Palestine during the British Mandate were completely unaware that such a denomination existed. Few Palestinians even had the opportunity to see such a note. Only a select wealthy few, commercial concerns and banks had the opportunity to possess such notes.

The history of the 50 Pound notes developed as a result of my research starts in 1924. A study made by a Committee appointed by the High Commission of Palestine in 1924 submitted a report which proposed the appointment of a Currency Board. It would supervise a Palestine Currency based on the pound sterling with sterling securities held in London to secure all currency placed in circulation. The Committee suggested a recommended counting unit of small value to the pound sterling to retain the value of a decimal system.

The Palestine Currency Board was constituted. The members and Secretary were appointed by a minute of the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated June 15, 1926, and the unit adopted was the Palestine Pound: to be equal in value to the British pound sterling and to be divided into 1,000 mils.

The Board determined that the notes to be issued be in the denominations of 50 mils, 1 Pound, 5 Pounds, 10 Pounds, 50 Pounds and 100 Pounds. The 50 Pounds note was determined to have as pictorial representations on the obverse that of the Crusaders' Tower, Ramleh, and the reverse a representation of the Citadel in Jerusalem. It was also determined that the size of the note be 103 x 190 mm. with obverse colors of green, blue and brown and reverse colors of green and purple.

The official records of the issue dates of 50 Pounds notes have been pursued for many years without success, and it is likely that such records are not available. The list of 50 Pounds notes compiled to date represent all dates located and verified by the author to date. The listing is as follows:

September 1, 1927

September 30, 1929

September 7, 1939

The Palestine Mandate 50-Pound Note illustrated is from the personal collection of the author, Jack H. Fisher, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The note is shown approx. half-size.



Questions submitted by individuals interested in the 50 Pounds notes range from the number of notes in circulation at specific times during the Mandate to the number of 50 Pounds notes still outstanding and the value of such notes in various grades as collector items. The first question consists of the notes in circulation from first year of issue, (1927) to the termination of the Board (1952) plus official figures as to outstanding notes as of 1966.

The amount of 50 Pounds notes in circulation for each year from 1927 through and including 1952 from official records is set forth as follows in Palestine Pounds.

March 31, 1928	98,000 Pounds
March 31, 1929	98,150 Pounds
March 31, 1930	97,200 Pounds
March 31, 1931	88,350 Pounds
March 31, 1932	76,850 Pounds
March 31, 1933	70,200 Pounds
March 31, 1934	68,250 Pounds
March 31, 1935	90,150 Pounds
March 31, 1936	136,700 Pounds
March 31, 1937	76,200 Pounds
March 31, 1938	53,400 Pounds
March 31, 1939	170,200 Pounds
March 31, 1940	295,800 Pounds
March 31, 1941	611,050 Pounds
March 31, 1942	575,250 Pounds
March 31, 1943	802,400 Pounds
March 31, 1944	1,092,000 Pounds

March 31, 1945	1,208,500 Pounds
March 31, 1946	1,165,000 Pounds
March 31, 1947	1,235,500 Pounds
March 31, 1948	1,028,850 Pounds
March 31, 1949	411,450 Pounds
March 31, 1950	332,050 Pounds
March 31, 1951	73,500 Pounds
March 31, 1952	20,300 Pounds

Official government sources stated that the theoretical amount of 50 Pounds notes outstanding as of March 31, 1966 was 5200 Pounds or a theoretical 104 notes. This official source stated:

"it must be emphasized that the figures can have little practical significance by now, as a great deal of the notes shown as theoretically outstanding must have been destroyed from one cause or another."

It is also to be noted that Palestine Currency Board notes continued to be redeemed from 1966 up to and including 1970. There was personal information received that in 1967 five 50 Pounds notes were redeemed from the Arab world. These notes were cancelled before they could be saved for collectors. This leaves a theoretical 99 notes unaccounted for—except for those in collectors or dealers hands.

The government sources have refused to divulge official information concerning 50 Pounds notes redeemed since March 31, 1966. This official data is still being pursued and will be reported to the numismatic fraternity once it is obtained.

The author's personal collection contains 50 Pounds notes of the three verified dates, being September 1, 1927, September 30, 1929 and September 7, 1939. The only 1927 50 Pounds note known to me to have survived is in my personal collection. The notes in collections known to me bear the 1929 date and one collector has reported possessing the 1939 date note.

There are so few of the 50 Pounds notes available for collectors that it is truly difficult to value such notes

by grade and date. Sylvia Haffner in her Second Edition of *The History of Modern Israel's Money* lists the 1929 and 1939 dates in circulated condition at \$850.00 with no stated value for the extremely rare 1927 50 Pounds note. Each note known to me for the past few years has been purchased mainly on a basis of negotiation between purchaser and seller.

There is substantial interest in verifying all known 50 Pound notes in the possession of collectors or dealers. Information from any source as to the known loss or destruction of 50 Pounds notes by fire or other casualty is also of interest. It is requested that all such information be transmitted to Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49006, U.S.A.

The Pruta Series

250 Pruta



Metal: Cupro-nickel
Weight: 14.1 gm
Diameter: 32.2 mm
Year: 5709 (1949)
Edges: milled
250 PRUTA

OBVERSE: In the centre, three ears of corn joined at their base; above them, the word "Israel" in Hebrew, and underneath in Arabic. The rim is encircled by elongated dots. This theme was derived from the silver quarter-shekel, struck in the fourth year (69 CE) of the War of the Jews against Rome. Only a single coin of this type is extant (in the British Museum). There is abundant proof that in reality the portrayal is of palm-branches and not of ears of corn. Three ears of corn do appear on the bronze prutot of Agrippa I.

REVERSE: Between two olive-branches, the inscription: "250 Pruta—5709". The rim is encircled by elongated dots.

EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES 777X



AINA Tour Members, Friends and Well-Wishers photographed at Kennedy Airport, New York, prior to departure — March 10, 1971.

FROM AINA'S THIRD ANNUAL STUDY TOUR A FIRST DAY'S MEMOIR

BY ALAN WEINBERG

Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv — I'm sort of glad our flight was delayed. It gave me a chance to meet most of the people on the tour before we boarded the plane. The people are from all over the U. S. and Canada.

After a long but comfortable trip, our group arrived at Lod Airport. We were met and greeted by Yitzhak Avni who is the top man of the IGC MC who was happy to exchange on the spot greetings with Ephraim Levy, the top man of the IGC MC in the U. S. and Canada.

A bus took us to the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv where a hot shower and a soft bed were our welcome. We are in Israel.

First Day. The next morning (*Friday March 11*) we boarded a bus; we sat back and took in Tel Aviv through the bus windows as the Tour Guide, Jacob, explained the various sights to us. Clunk! Our bus rounded a corner — and hit a small Fiat car. Our driver and guide got out, found everyone unharmed, and talked to the Fiat's driver as they checked the damage. *No damage!* It was all over and gone in a few smiling minutes. But — *neither* the bus *nor* the car could be moved! The driver, the guide, and a third man then lifted the tiny car out of the way! Most of us laughed or applauded and the near accident became a small adventure with no damage done.

Continued on page 31

ONE AGORA WORTH 100 POUNDS?

by Dov Genachowski

This is not really a "*Jerusalem Diary*", but rather a selection of notations from a collector's notebook. The fact that this collector lives in Jerusalem, has, of course, some bearing on what he writes. Hopefully, not *too* much so. So much for the formal "third person". From now on, it's going to be "first person", throughout.

* * *

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem managed "to steal the show" from the Kadman Museum in Tel Aviv, temporarily, with one of the best and most illuminating numismatic exhibitions, not only locally but on an international level as well. It was *The Production of Coins in the Ancient World*, arranged by Yaakov Meshorer.

An exhibition is a temporary affair, of course, but for this one Meshorer wrote one of the best catalogues I've ever seen, a treasure by itself. I hope the "Shekel" will run at least part of the text, (*Editor: Planned for later in 1971*) but I highly recommend the 44-page booklet. It is available from the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, at IL. 2.50. Hebrew and English throughout.

Talking of Museum catalogues, another one of the Israel Museum, *Jewish Art on Lamps*, by Varda Sussman, will also be of much interest to the numismatic fraternity. This one is also bilingual, and costs IL. 3.00.

* * *

Israel Tomer is the Jerusalem economic correspondent of *Yedioth Aharonoth*, a large afternoon daily. Dropping in my office one day, he saw on my desk Sylvia Haffner's *History*. Leafing through the book, he became interested, and wrote a story featuring the book and some stories I told him.

He specifically mentioned the various varieties of the 1960 1-Agorah. The story appeared on a Friday (for newspapers in Israel, the equivalent of Sunday in the States), and ever since both of us have been in "trouble", flooded by letters and phone calls. Most of them from non-collectors who think they "hit" something—generally the "inverted" 1963 1 Ag. One woman called to say she found something "extraordinary"—a 1-pound coin with the reverse of the half-pound. She never noticed the change in designs in 1967. But one woman called Tomer to say "thanks"—she really found the "large date" 1960 1 Ag. (A-101a). Someone else wrote to say he is the proud owner of no less than 163 unc. 1/2 mil "Haganah" Tokens.

* * *

When is one Agorah worth exactly 100 Pounds? When found in a bottle of milk. The United Dairies of Ramat Gan were fined IL. 100 in the Haifa court for one measly agorah which found its way into one of their pasteurized milk bottles.

* * *

Going through Harmer Rook's catalogue of their sale of the numismatic collection of the late Cardinal Spellman, I met several times the *Terra Sancta* Medal issued by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. Three times, to be exact. One is bronze, 60mm., marked on the reverse "*Visite de S.S. Le Pape Paul VI. 5.I.1964*", in the olive wood box (\$50); the second is the large silver 59mm., No. 0444, presented by the President of Israel to Cardinal Spellman in 1966, again in the olive wood box (\$200); and the third is the

From the book: 'Kisaot le beit-David' — Kings' Thrones of the House of David, by J. Asahel Mehattab (Leon de Bene), printed in Verona, Italy, about 1646.

Around the picture, the words of the Psalms: 'For there were set thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David'. Psalms, 122, 5.



same, but the smaller silver version, presented to the Cardinal by Mr. T. Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem) again in 1966 (\$200). "Teddy's" (as the mayor is called by everybody in Jerusalem) comment when shown the "value" of his present was just a terse: "very amusing".

* * *

Nobody is happy at price increases—with exceptions. When bus fares in Israel were recently "rounded" upwards to the nearest "grush" (colloquial for 10 Agoroth), the only people happy about it, apparently, were the staff of the coin production unit of the Bank of Israel. When fares in Jerusalem, for example, were 17 agoroth, they had to produce literally millions of the aluminum coins—between 2 and 4 million units each month of 1970, just to satisfy the bus companies' demands. Now, with fares in Jerusalem 20 Agoroth, everything is simpler, and the work load lighter.

* * *

Reading the continuous discussion in *The Numismatist* concerning the 1804 Dollar, reminds me of what I call the Jerusalem 1804 Dollar. This, of course, is a private mintage, to be polite, either of Beyrouth or of local origin, in cast copper, silver-coated, manufactured for sale in the bazaars of Jerusalem's Old City to unwary and "find"-happy tourists. My "copy" was bought by a friend who should have known better, for IL. 50. He found it lying innocently in a tray outside an "antique" dealers in the Old City. He showed it to me with great happiness, but when he discovered what happened, flung it madly at the wall and left the office terribly

mad. I had to move some bookshelves to retrieve it.

* * *

Apparently, quite a lot of people "ring" the 1-pound coins to find out if they are genuine. This came out when several perfectly good coins were "branded" forgeries, just because they did not "ring". The real "story", of course, was that several coins with inside "air bubbles" were produced more or less at the same time. One of these "ringers" did not believe me, so I took a knife and "split" the coin for him, to show him the bubble. Now he claims I owe him a pound.

AINA Tour Members In Israel



While many of the activities included all tour members, visits to the homes of Israeli numismatists and government leaders were of necessity limited to smaller groups. Here in the home of popular Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, are (l. to r.) Morris Bram; Peggy Borgolte, Ephraim Levy, Rabbi A. Ilson, and Marion Russell.

ZIM PAYIS WIZO MEDALS ISSUED IN SPRING

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation released early in 1971 news of new strikings of officially commissioned medals.

The ZIM Medal issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Israel's national shipping company:



The Hebrew word ZIM is to be found in a Biblical verse (Numbers XXV, 24, which appears on the reverse of the medal in stylized Hebrew lettering. Above this are two ships—the company's very first and the newest. Presently it operates 78 ships with a dead weight of one million tons. On the obverse—the word ZIM appears again, in Hebrew and in English, on the funnel of a ship, while the number 25 flows out like smoke. The famous seven stars of the company's flag are on the left. Designed by Shamir Bros., Tel Aviv. Struck in 59mm bronze and 45mm silver.

The PAYIS Medal:



The "PAYIS" Medal marks 20 years of activity of Israel's State Lottery. The proceeds are used for education and hospitalization as indicated by the design on the obverse, which shows, along with the Lottery's emblem, symbols of medicine and learning. On the reverse are the twelve signs of the Zodiac and in the center, a schematic design of the popular little selling booths. Designed by Nathan Karp. Struck in 45mm bronze.

The WIZO JUBILEE Medal:



WIZO—Women's International Zionist Organization, with its 250,000 members, is indeed proud of its magnificent 50 years record. Their ramified institutions in Israel include baby care; mothercraft and infant homes; vocational secondary training and youth clubs; immigrant guidance and community centers. On the obverse of the medal is a motif of mother and child, on the reverse the number 50 in the center of an incused six pointed Star of David. In the field, 50 figures symbolize the Jubilee being celebrated the world over. The design is by "Roli" of Tel Aviv. Struck in 59mm bronze.

These medals are available through AINA, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008 at the following prices:
ZIM and WIZO, 59mm bronze — \$4.50 each. PAYIS, 45mm bronze — \$4.00 each; ZIM, 45mm silver — \$14.00. Add 50c per medal for postage and insurance and the applicable tax (N. Y. S. — 7%).

The ALEPH BETH Page ...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I have a shekel whose obverse looks like the one shown in Vol. 1, No. 3 Autumn 1968 on page 8 of The Shekel. The reverse is different. It appears to be a keystone. What can you tell me about it? T. K., Boston, Mass.

A. Sorry that we cannot reproduce your poor rubbing. It is a Masonic lodge chapter medal/token. These pieces are covered by Bruno Kirch in his monograph *Shekel Medals And False Shekels* which appeared in 1941 when it was reprinted from *Historia Judaica* Vol. III, No. 2. These pieces appeared only in America unlike the vast majority (over 95%) which had their origin in Europe. The obverse showed a fairly representative copy of the shekel of the First Revolt while the reverse showed Masonic symbols, chapter names, letters and in some cases, addresses.

Q. Isn't the shekel of year 1, struck by Simon Maccabee the first coin struck in the land that now comprises the State of Israel? T. R. Chicago, Ill.

A. Wrong on two counts. Based on the most conclusive numismatic evidence such as the Masada hoard, it is the now accepted fact that the silver Jewish Shekel was struck during the First Revolt and not by Simon. Reifenberg, when confronted with the overpowering proof changed his opinion to coincide with G. F. Hill's attribution (made in 1914) in the *British Museum Catalogue*.

The oldest coins struck in the Land of Israel would have to be one of the Persian period Philisto-Arabian coins struck apparently at Gaza or a Yehud province minute silver coin apparently struck in Jerusalem. There is evidence of both coins having been struck some time in the 4th Century B.C.E., prior to the conquest of the area by Alex-

ander the Great in 332 B.C.E., Alexander set up a mint at Akko which struck gold and silver coins.

MEDAL IDENTIFIED

The *Aleph Beth* page of the Spring Issue, 1971, of *The Shekel* requests information concerning the minting of a "Zionist Medal" (1920) by J. V. Hoef; 30 mm. Sterling.

The subject medal was produced by the Royal Dutch Gold and Silver Works, Van Kempen & Begeer Ltd., Zeist, Holland.

I have in my collection the 30 mm. (1.20") sterling medal you refer to, and also a Bronze 215 grams, casted, 93 mm. (3.72") item of the same. It was also minted in Gold 21.6 carat, satin finish 30 mm. The medal is referred to as the "Zionist - Medal."

I believe it was issued to mark the founding of the Labor Zionist organization which was established in 1920.

The Dutch firm has also issued beautifully executed gold, silver and bronze medals of interest to the Judaica collector. Specifically: *Israel-Arab War - June 1967 - Moshe Dayan*. Designer Willem Vis; *20 Year State of Israel*, issued 1968. Bronze, 210 grams casted, high relief, 70 mm. (2.08"). Designer T. van der Plant; and *20 Years of Israel - Ben Gurion*. Issued 1968. Designer Willem Vis.

The Dutch firm now has a California dealer: Brauns Ltd., Encino, California 91316, P.O. Box 776.

Yearl E. Schwartz.

Mr. Harry Flower also provided this information, pointing out that the Dutch Zionist Medal is described in the *INSI Bulletin* of Dec. 1970.

Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.



On my recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to talk to collectors and dealers and get an idea of what is collected and in demand, as well as the possibilities for numismatic material in the future. I have always felt the time to collect a group or series is when it is dormant and before everyone becomes involved. Prices are usually at a minimum at that time when interest is lagging, but as soon as a series becomes popular, the price of the material will almost go out of reach.

In Israel, I found that there were some collectors who have been putting away the paper money used in the *kibbutzim*. While everyone seems to have a few pieces, it is difficult to obtain any appreciable number. These pieces are good for clothes, furniture and any other commodities needed by a member of the *Kibbutz* and they circulate only on the premises and do not have any monetary value.

They are a historic and economic representation of the numismatics of Israel. Only one hundred collectors could absorb most of the material available. I understand that Sylvia Haffner will be listing these pieces in the near future and this in itself should give a big boost to this interesting series.

During the depression years in the United States, script was issued by the various firms and organizations and this material could then be easily picked up. Today they are listed and are desirable numismatically. A similar situation could develop with the script of the *kibbutzim*.

Even if you are not fond of paper money *per se*, everyone should have a few pieces of this representative money in his collection.

The greater number of collectors that I met in Israel concentrated on ancient coins, artifacts, and knowing the country, one could easily see why. The constant archeological projects uncover numerous numismatic specimens, of course some in very poor condition. But there are always new discoveries and opportunities for those who are right on the spot.

One of the world's foremost collectors of ancient coins was the late King Victor Emmanuel of Italy. It is said that he preferred taking care of his coin collection rather than the matters of State. His research and writings in numismatics are legendary and have done much to aid the collector of ancient coins.

Recently the 99 Company released the 1971 Certified Coin Covers of Israel. One thousand sets were issued with the mintmark and eighteen hundred sets of the regular specimen coins. As usual, Israel's covers have been the biggest sellers in the history of the Philatelic-Numismatic Combination. When one considers the covers were made for many countries in the world, such as the United States and Canada, this is an indication of Israel's great popularity in the numismatic world.

Among the members of the AINA tour to Israel this year, those who preferred ancient coins seemed to have a fondness for the Bar Kochba coins. Several obtained specimens in very sharp condition, a welcome addition to their collections. Some of these pieces were struck over the denarii of the Romans. The legend on the reverse of these is "*The Deliverance of Jerusalem*", which also has a pitcher and palm branch, and the word "*Si-*

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SOVIET COIN COLLECTORS

HARASSED BY POLICE

The New York Times has reported that some prominent Soviet archeologists have called for legal measures to protect coin collectors from police harassment and criminal prosecution.

The collectors, whose hobby involves them in the sale and purchase of gold, silver and platinum money of the past, have inadvertently been violating the rather strict law against "speculation" — the sale of valuables for profit. In the last year, apparently as part of a campaign against speculators, several collectors have been brought to trial.

In addition, the Soviet Society of Philatelists, which formerly had a numismatic branch, liquidated it because it was decided that coin collecting was not useful for "Communist education."

That left the coin-collecting community, which probably numbers in the hundreds in Moscow alone, without a legal basis for existence and caused them and their families great concern.

Their plight was brought up in January by the weekly literary newspaper, *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, which reported on a trial that had angered collectors, who felt that the defendants were being unjustly dealt with.

Subsequently the paper printed a letter signed by six archeologists, the most important of them being Boris A. Rybakov, probably the country's leading archeologist, who heads the Academy of Sciences' Institute of Archeology.

"Collecting is one of the forms of the age-old quest of man to learn his own history, and coin collecting is a branch of historical science without which our ideas of the world would be less complete and less exact.

"The significance of numismatics for historical science is great and does not require special evidence. The material assembled by collectors is a basic source for the creation and enlarging of the state numismatic wealth. Hence it is understood that coin collecting is positive."

Special Society Favored

The scientists suggested that a special coin collectors' society be established and that special stores be set up for the members.

At the trial, which involved an unspecified number of collectors, other collectors testified unanimously in their favor. *Literaturnaya Gazeta* did not disclose the verdicts but indicated that its sympathy was on the side of the collectors. It did say that the prosecutor had tried to be fair.

The prosecutor sought to prove a defendant was a speculator and not a collector:

Prosecutor: In your collection are 17 similar rubles of Peter I of 1720 and 13 ruble coins of 1725. For a collection, one only needs one or two. Why did you have so many?

Defendant: Excuse me, but these coins are not the same. They all have different imprints. I collected them according to their imprints. I ask for an expert to verify that the coins are not the same.

"Experts examined the coins and supported the evidence of the defendant," *Literaturnaya Gazeta* reported.

In a short editorial, it promised to continue the discussion on coin collecting. It had sharp criticism for the philately society's decision to eliminate its coin branch.

SOLOMON HANDEL

On November 7, 1970, a devoted member of AINA and of the Israel Numismatic Society of New York passed away. Mr. Solomon Handel truly deserved the title: "Lover of Israel."

He was extremely active in the Jewish National Fund which plants trees and develops land in Israel. He was well-known in the JNF offices of Jerusalem and New York and he was instrumental in the JNF stamp program. He was also active in many Israel Bond Drives, a vice-president of the Zionist District and a member of Young Israel.

Mr. Handel was born in Galicia and came to the U. S. in the 1930s. He was a translator in the New York Court System for many years. His hobbies, like his interests, centered on Judaica and he had an extensive collection of coins, stamps and books.

He was a member of the Society of Israel Philatelists as well as the Jewish Historical Philatelic Society. The scope of his knowledge on Judaica was astounding. He was the one to go to with a Jewish coin or object for identification — and to be rewarded with a complete history. His love of his people pervaded everything he did.

It was fitting that he was laid to rest in the Mar Mamenuchat Cemetery in the Givat Shaul section of Jerusalem in the Judaen hills. His tombstone is unique in that it features a Shekel of the First Revolt as part of the stone's design. This feature was so unusual that a Rabbinic ruling and approval was necessary before it could be carved and then erected.

Men of Mr. Handel's character and calibre are rare indeed. He will be missed as a Judaic authority, a man of character and religion, and a friend to many.

*A Tribute by Robert Messing,
New York*



The unique tombstone of Solomon Handel in a Jerusalem cemetery includes Shekel design.

CERTIFICATE MEMORIALIZES HANDEL



Robert Messing, AINA board member, accepts a certificate for the Israel Numismatic Society of New York in memory of Mr. Solomon Handel from Dr. Biederman of the Jewish National Fund. The certificate cites the forty trees planted in the Jerusalem Forest of the JNF, purchased by the INS of New York to honor the memory of member Solomon Handel. Stamps gathered in the background were largely the work of Mr. Handel.

U.S. COURT HOLDS GIFT OF COINS TO ISRAEL VALID

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath the entire collection of gold and platinum coins left me by my late beloved husband, to the State of Israel, upon condition that the same be kept and exhibited in the State of Israel, in an appropriate museum, that the same be marked and identified to the viewing public as 'The collection of Dr. Aron A. Kaplun' and that the State of Israel will undertake to keep said collection in perpetuity never to be sold or otherwise disposed of . . ."

It took nine years and protracted court battles to establish that the above quoted gift of a coin collection to the State of Israel is a legitimate tax deductible charitable contribution and that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service should allow for a charitable deduction for estate tax purposes.

In January, 1971, the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, the second highest federal court in the United States, finally settled a controversy which had been in litigation for seven long years.

The facts of the case follow. Mrs. Kaplun died in September, 1962, leaving a will with the above described gift. Her will was admitted to probate in the Surrogate Court of New York County on December 1962. The court ruled that the bequest of the coin collection to the State of Israel did in fact constitute a charitable bequest and therefore qualified as an allowable deduction in the computation of New York State taxes.

When the federal estate tax return was filed in November 1964, it re-

flected a deduction of close to \$70,000 claimed under the U.S. Internal Revenue law which allows deductions for certain charitable bequests. The Internal Revenue Service refused to recognize it as a valid charitable deduction. The estate paid the tax and then brought the matter to a federal court for adjudication seeking reimbursement of the taxes paid under protest.

The Federal Court in *unanimous decision* ruled that the gift was made to a qualified trustee for a charitable purpose. The court further held that while it is true that the State of Israel in a non-trustee role could engage in activities which would prohibit such a gift from being tax deductible, such as using it for political propaganda purpose, there is no indication, whatsoever, that the State of Israel in agreeing to accept and perform the conditions of the gift that of setting up a permanent exhibit of the coin collection, would deviate from its pledged responsibility.

Abraham H. Foxman, donor of this article, is an attorney and numismatist.

MEDALS OF THE HOLY LAND

by Sylvia Haffner



Wailing Wall Medal - "9th of Av"

The association of Judaica Collectors in Israel issued a medal commemorating the *Wailing Wall* (Western Wall) in 1961, to mark the eternal link between the people of Israel and the remains of the Holy Temple—the *Wailing Wall*. The obverse was designed by Dr. Leo Kadman, who was president of the *Israel Numismatic Society*, and the reverse was composed by Professor Rivlin of the Hebrew University.

OBV: Within an incuse rectangle, the "Wailing Wall" or Western Wall with two men in prayer; around the rim in Hebrew, "ON THIS NIGHT MY CHILDREN WILL CRY AND WAIL" a verse from the *Tisha B'Av* poems of lamentations; between the two flowers on the bottom of the rim, "9TH OF AV", (*Tisha B'Av*).

REV: In Hebrew the verse from *Shimoni's* anthology, "THERE IS BUT ONE WESTERN (WAILING) WALL / SEE OUR WALLS STAND FIRM"; below between two flowers the seven-branched *Menora* of the Temple as depicted on the *Titus' Arch* in Rome.

Edge: The incuse inscription in Hebrew, "THE CIRLE OF COLLECTORS OF JUDAICA, ISRAEL 5721 (1961)."

METAL	DIAMETER	WEIGHT
.935 fine silver	33mm	25gm.
Bronze	33mm	18gm.

Courtesy of: Harry Flower and "The Holy Land Philatelist".

Keren Hayesod - Calendar Medal, 1937



This medal has been attributed as an issue by the Keren Hayesod, United Israel Appeal. In trying to obtain further information on the medal, Mr. Yitzhak Rogow, Director of the Information Department of the Keren Hayesod states:

"... we seem to have no file on the medallion and it is just possible that these medallions were prepared by one of our overseas constituents."



Anyone having further information on this calendar medal will be appreciated and should be sent to *The Shekel*.

*Metal: Cupronickel; Edge: Plain;
Diameter: 38mm; Weight:
14.8gm.*

Courtesy of: Menachem Lev-Ran.

Timna Mines Medal - 1959



In the Negev, the boiling days and freezing nights have been considered by the "experts" as a completely hopeless, empty land. But in this "impossible" land are buried Israel's greatest

source of mineral wealth. The Negev was surveyed for minerals and chemicals and in 1950, the Israeli government and private firms organized ex-

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WAS THIS SPANISH GENERAL OF THE 17th CENTURY A CRYPTO-JEW?

BY YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A 17-century medallion newly acquired by the Maritime Museum here has led to speculation that the Spanish general, Ambrose Spinola, Marquis de Los Balebases, may have been a Marrano (crypto-Jew). The 4.5-cm. bronze medallion was donated to the Museum director, Arie Ben-Eli, by a Jewish antiquities dealer, in Paris, Gerard Levy. Mr. Ben-Eli has just returned from France.

On the obverse is a portrait of Spinola, and an inscription with his name and the words "Serra Vallis."

The reverse depicts a sailing ship and carries an inscription, in Hebrew, "*Ana Hashem Hoshea Na,*" the famous verse from the Hallel, meaning "We beseech Thee O Lord save us."

HEBREW INSCRIPTION

Mr. Ben-Eli believes that this probably unique Hebrew inscription on a medallion of this nature, apparently struck to mark one of Spinola's victories, may indicate that Spinola (the name resembles that of the philosopher Spinoza) was a descendant of Marranos. There is no date on the medallion, but according to catalogues in the Museum, which lists other Spinola medallions, it was probably struck sometime during the second decade of the 17th century.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Spinola (1569-1630) was

born in Genoa, which at the time was "practically a Spanish protectorate." He was, according to the Britannica, a descendant of "a family of great antiquity, wealth and power." He enlisted in the service of Spain, together with his brother Frederick, and fought in the Spanish campaigns in the Netherlands. His brother was killed in 1603, while leading a squadron of galleys against the Dutch coast.

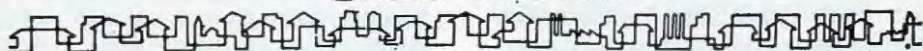
Ambrose Spinola's first victory was the siege and capture of Ostend, in 1604. He was subsequently appointed commander of the Spanish forces in Flanders, and took many towns after laying siege to them — the type of warfare of that time. He was promoted to the rank of Captain-General, after his most famous victory, the capture of the town of Breda, in 1625, following a long siege.

This even was immortalised by Velasquez in his oil painting, "The Surrender of Breda" ("Las Lanzas"), in which Count Justin of Nassau is shown handing the keys to the city to Spinola. The likeness of Spinola in the Velasquez painting is identical to that on the medallion. After the capture of Breda Spinola returned to Genoa, where he died five years later.

If the surmise regarding the Hebrew inscription is correct, it would throw a completely new light on the history of the general. Whoever designed the medallion was well versed in Jewish

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Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor.

INS OF MARYLAND HEARS OF CONCENTRATION CAMP MAIL

At the April meeting of the INS of Maryland jointly with the Israel Philatelic Society, members and guests were very thoroughly informed on the mail system used in the ghettos and concentration camps of Germany during World War II and of the coins and paper used as currency and money at these places. It was an education, told and shown, by slides, by one who had lived and endured through these horrors: Morris Rosen, guest speaker. While giving the information he had so wonderfully and expertly prepared, he was reliving a part of his life best not recalled too vividly.

When the last slide was shown, when the last of the prepared talk was completed, Mr. Rosen implanted the evening in members' minds forever by these words: "Please, no applause for me. This was meant for education not entertainment. This was meant to recall to everybody what the situation was really like. I would like, instead of applause, that everyone stand for a minute in silent prayer for those who died at the Warsaw Ghetto on this — their anniversary."

At the May meeting nominations were made for officers for the Society for the coming year. The June elections meeting will be the final one for 1970-1971 season, reported Harold Mondell in the group's newsletter.

The guest speaker at the February meeting was Mr. Yitzhak Avni of the IGCNC. It was an honor and a treat to have had him for this meeting. All those present were most favorably impressed by him. We found him to be a

warm, friendly and very sincere person. We saw him as a person interested in our wants, needs and desires. There was nothing in his manners, nor his words, to show the government official that he actually is. It was more like being with a fellow collector trying to help you with your needs and questions.

INS OF CLEVELAND HEARS INTERNATIONAL EXPERT

May was the final meeting of the current September through May year, reports Max S. Gladstone, president.

The guest speaker, Mr. A. Ben-David of Toronto, is the President of the Israel Numismatic Society of Toronto and President of the Canadian Association of Israel Philatelists. He is also the Past-President of the World Philatelic Congress of Holy Land, Israel and Judaica Societies. He is internationally known as an authority on the Safed stamps and cancellations. His son is the Israel Government Director for the distribution of Israel's Coins, Medals and Stamps in Canada.

He spoke on the History of Zionism and Israel's Wars for Survival.

May 6th, the evening before the scheduled meeting, Mr. Ben-David gave an illustrated lecture on "The Doar Ivri Forgeries" before the Society of Israel Philatelists.

Elected at the April meeting were:

Corrs. Sec'y.Richard "Dick" Wengel
PresidentSanford Brown
Vice-President ..Charles Leuten
TreasurerSanford Brown
Recording Sec. ..Max Gladstone

The March and April meetings saw sound films titled "Beyond The Miracle" and "Israel Now," outstanding films showing the miracles performed and being performed in Israel today.

The February meeting heard speakers: Henry Bloser and Ray Nolan on the topic: Symbols from the Old and New Testaments as used on Israel's coinage — illustrated — followed by an auction and refreshments.

INS OF NEW JERSEY MAKES DEBUT

The INS of N. J., organized in April, had its inaugural meeting under the unusual circumstances of an Israel Fair being held in suburban Short Hills.

With prominent American and Israel leaders in attendance, the new INS came into being amid inaugural ceremonies which included talks, entertainment by Israeli singers, coin displays and a short film. Among numismatic celebrities present were Ephraim Levy of the IGCAM and Morris Bram, president of the AINA.

The event, the Israel Expo 1971 Festival, itself featured cultural and product displays and sales of Israeli merchandise including books, home furnishings, fashions and jewelry; an Israeli restaurant; an Israeli "super-market"; and events for children in the five-day event held for the first time in the community.

Officers elected for the new INS are:

Carl Rosenblum	Recording Secretary
Martin Adelman	President
Max Becker	Vice-President
Dr. Philip Newman	Treasurer
Laura Rosenblum	Corrs. Sec'y.

TEXAS INS SEES FILMS, HOLDS AUCTIONS MONTHLY

The twentieth scheduled meeting of the INS of Texas entertained members and guests with a very beautiful film: *Passover*. This short film was in time for the Passover holidays and the showing preceded an auction of Israeli notes and coins.

The Spring meeting featured a color and sound film, *Off the Beaten Track*

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in Israel in which a boy acts as a guide to a visiting American. An NBC film on the *Israel Air Forces* was obtained for the February meeting, writes Harold Z. Nelkin, president.

Treasurer Ben Feder has been kept busy with club transactions on the recently issued medals, the Specimen set, and other offerings.

INS OF MIAMI HOLDS

MAY DINNER

The annual dinner of the INS of Greater Miami was held on May 4th at the Famous Restaurant on Miami Beach. Meetings held prior to the event were addressed by Mrs. Florence Lelchuk who reported on progress of dinner plans.

Members interested in an auction night were checked to test desire of the club for such events.

Guests and members reported that a program with Rabbi Meyer Abramowitz who discussed the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*, with slides of medals of Elizabeth Weistrop, was one of the finest numismatic meetings they had ever attended. The club is interested in having its own members prepare talks on Judaica numismatic topics.

Officers of the club include:

President	Edward Schuman
First Vice-Pres.	S. George Trager
2nd Vice-Pres.	Marvin Haspil
Treasurer	Morris A. Barr
Corr. Secretary	Jay Glushakow
Recording Sec'y.	Mary Barr

Board of Directors include Sheldon Lelchuk, Sidney W. Smith, B. J. Rubinstein, Hyman Sootin, Oscar Winkelstein and Jack Diamond. Reception and Attendance: Bertha Sootin.

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MASS. GROUP HEARS OF THIRD AINA TOUR FROM TUCKER

The April meeting of the INS of Massachusetts heard member Nat Tucker who had just returned from Israel with the *Third AINA Study Tour of Israel*.

Those who attended the prior meeting had a pleasant surprise: they heard Morton Soosman, a member, report on plans to move to Israel. Mr. Soosman extended an invitation for all INS friends to look him up on their next visits to the Holy Land.

The meeting also heard a discussion of the 23rd Independence Day Coin which is dedicated to the Science-Based Industries of Israel.

The March meeting discussed *Mils* and there was also an illustrated talk on *Palestine Mandate Coins, 1927-47*, with a complete set of coins on display, reported Sandra Walter, secretary.

The group now meets at the *Hebrew College* in Brookline, writes Mr. Irving L. Rudin, club president.

LONG ISLANDERS ISSUE ANNIVERSARY COVER

Long Island, N. Y.—After many trials and tribulations, members of the INSLI (Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island) received their "First Anniversary Covers".

The cover, postmarked "Jerusalem, Dec. 27, 1970" features the now-famous 15 Agorot stamp depicting The Great Synagogue in Tunis. This stamp was withdrawn because the name of G-D in Hebrew is in the center of the star-shaped stained glass window in the peak of the building. The cancellation and/or destruction of anything on which the NAME appears would be a desecration. These special covers have been cancelled by the Israel Post Office so that the NAME remains untouched.

The cover includes a 1-agora coin and was designed and made by PAN-art Covers based on suggestions from Mel Wacks and Moe Weinschel. PAN-



art did this under a very tight schedule and despite mail delays and the California earthquake, they arrived after only a short delay. (PANart is at P.O. Box 2525 No. Hollywood, Calif. if other clubs would like to develop covers of their own.)

Following distribution to members of INSLI, covers are being offered as a bonus to new members in 1971.

Excess covers (and there are only a few) are now also offered for sale to AINA members at \$3.50 each, while they last.

The cover is of a very simple design. The Society's name appears in the upper left with the words "First Anniversary". An outline map of Long Island covers the lower body with the INSLI logo within its borders. The stamp and cancellation is in the upper right.

Inquiries for further information as to availability of these covers should be directed to: INSLI, P.O. Box 145, Plainview, New York 11803.

PENNSYLVANIANS HOLD JOINT MEETING EARLY IN 1971

Philadelphia, Penna.—The Israel Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania and the Society of Israel Philatelists held a joint meeting in February in suburban Philadelphia.

Guests of honor included Rabbi Aaron Landes of Beth Sholom Synagogue; the Honorable Zvi Gabay, Vice Consul General of Philadelphia; Morris Bram, AINA President; The Honorable Ephraim Levy, Director for IGCAM; Judge J. Sydney Hoffman, of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania; and the Honorable Yitzhak Avni, Director of the IGCAM, speaker of the evening, who was introduced by Mr. Levy.

Mr. Avni delivered an exciting talk on the *Money of Israel* that elicited a number of questions from a large and interested audience. Judge Hoffman was presented with a lucite-encased Masada medal for his services as the first President of the Israel Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania. Suitable tokens of appreciation were given to Mrs. Anne Cohen, Secretary; and Marvin Blumenthal, Vice President. Arnold Shay, President of the INS of Pennsylvania, internationally known for his collection of Ghetto and Concentration Camp currency and philatelics, presided.

A very fine exhibit of Israel coins and medals, along with refreshments and door prizes, added to the enjoyment of this outstanding occasion, reported M. V. Harrison, publicity chairman.

The April meeting of the INS of Pennsylvania heard Mr. Arnold Shay, president, give a presentation of his unusual collection of *Ghetto and Concentration Camp Mail*. Mr. Shay, himself a survivor of the Concentration camp experience, had much of interest and importance to show.

In addition, a display of Commemorative Coins and Medals issued by the Government of Israel was shown to members and guests.

A door prize of an Israeli coin is given to each person attending these meetings.

Officers for 1971 include:

<i>Arnold Shay</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Myron Harrison</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<i>Sol Hoffman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Anna L. Cohen</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Judge J. Sydney Hoffman</i>	<i>Hon. President</i>

MARRANO MEDAL?

Continued

tradition. The word for the deity is not spelled out in full on the medal; true to Jewish tradition it is denoted only by the letter "Heh." Another possibility is that the medal maker was a Jew who wrote the Hebrew verse at his own initiative, but this seems unlikely.

SAN GABRIEL GROUP INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The INS of San Gabriel Valley (Calif.), founded on Independence Day of Israel (April 20) two years ago, installed officers for the 1971 year at the Second Anniversary meeting of the group. Elected were:

Alva Christensen	President
Sally Marx	Vice-Pres.
Nate Bromberg	Treasurer
Lester Dubin	Recording Sec'y.
Ethel Stone	Corres. Sec'y.
Esther Bromberg	Bulletin Editor

Members of the Board include Ralph Marx, Esther Taller, Donna Sims, Lee King and George Allison.

The group now has approximately sixty members and announced during the Spring that it would issue a Third Year Cover. The group meets on Sunday afternoons (3rd Sunday of the month) in the Community Room of a local bank in Alhambra, Calif.

At a Spring meeting, Lou Friedman showed bronze medals; Len Sterling brought Israel Coin Covers. Donna Sims showed a philatelic book obtained during a trip to Israel.

Door prizes included a paid-up membership; a bronze medal; Israeli trade coins; stamp covers; and books.

INS OF NORTHERN CALIF. HEARS ART AUTHORITY

Guest lecturer, Prof. Baruch Kanael, visiting professor of Jewish History at the University of Jerusalem spoke on *Jewish Art, Motifs, Symbols and Ceremonial Art and their Usage on Ancient Jewish Coins* at the Spring meeting of the INS of Northern California.

The society recently elected:

Cyril Magnus	President
Rachael Cameron	Secretary
Mireille Vidal	Treasurer
Libby Magnus	Historian

Dr. Kanael, an authority in the field of Biblical art and archeology and its interpretation, studied Jewish history in England, Italy and Israel under many renowned scholars. Before coming to the U.S. he was on the faculty of *Bar Ilan University* in Israel where he started an extensive project of research into art of ancient synagogues and an evaluation of Jewish art.

SIX SPEAKERS AT ONE CHICAGO MEETING

Dr. Saul Needleman, Ben Odesser, Dr. Morris Goldberg, Dr. Alan Feinberg, Harry Flower and David Silverman were speaker-exhibitors at a recent meeting of the INS of Illinois.

Dr. Needleman showed a folder including a photo of a medal of Gershon Mendes Seixas (1746-1816). It was produced by Columbia College in 1816 to commemorate the death of Dr. Seixas, Minister of the *Congregation Shearith Israel* in New York and a Trustee of the College. The medal was thought to be the earliest known American medal of Jewish interest.

Mr. Odesser spoke on ancient Jewish coins, showing a Bar-Kochba (132-135 A.D.), a Judea Capta coin (66-70 A.D.) and a coin of A. Plautius, a general under Pompey with *BACCHIVS IVDAEVS* on the reverse.

Third exhibitor, Dr. Goldberg showed proof medals of Judaic interest: Ben Gurion, Herzl, Jabotinsky and Anne Frank. Dr. Feinberg spoke on important books: the Wirgin-Mandel *History* and a subsequent work, *The Dating and Meaning of Ancient Jewish Coins and Symbols* which refutes and "corrects" datings of the first work.

Mr. Flower displayed recently acquired medals from various countries: Israel, Holland, Austria.

Mr. Silverman showed artistically arranged frames containing coins and medals used for the Pidyon HaBen ceremony in Great Britain, Mexico, Israel and Germany.

Officers for the year are:

Harry Flower	President
Dr. Alan Feinberg	1st Vice-Pres.
David Silverman	2nd Vice-Pres.
Mary Bell	Mrs. Mary Bell
Mary Bell	Secretary
Leo Hecht, Lou Nagy,	
Ben Odesser	Board Members

At an earlier meeting in the year, Mr. Odesser showed a collection of 33 Masonic Pennies, all with Shekel reverses. These pieces, referred to as Masonic tokens, were issued by various Masonic lodges in the U.S. in the 1800s. At that same meeting Mr.

Flower showed a collection of 14 medals issued by Masonic Lodges of Israel and a further collection of "Walking Medals of Israel," 20 medals issued by various towns to the participants in yearly walks. Dr. Feinberg showed jetons, shekel medals, "Holy City of Jerusalem imitation coins" and some coins of Denmark, dated 1644.

ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF L. A.

IN ACTIVE YEAR

Club members Mel and Millie Fishel who narrated a slide lecture on their recent 4-month tour around the world and a lecture by authoress-numismatist Sylvia Haffner are but two of the sparkling programs conducted for members of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles, reports publicity chairman Len Sterling.

The club conducts many educational programs for the members with a recent bulletin listing all books available from the club's own lending library (numismatic books, of course). The club offers a prize of a plastic letter opener with a one Agora coin inserted to all members who demonstrate that they are able to read the fourteen Hebrew characters found on minor coins of Israel.

A reading lesson sheet is offered free to all members and to the general public to assist in Hebrew character identification. (Clubs can get a copy for their own use by writing to the L. A. Club at P. O. Box 893, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364).

The group meets on the last Sundays of the month at 2 PM in a West Los Angeles bank's Community Hall.

Early in the year the group awarded the Annual Special Recognition Award for service in furthering Israel numismatics to AINA President, Morris Bram, withholding announcement of the Award in the hopes that Mr. Bram would attend their February meeting. The award was made instead in March: in Israel during the AINA Tour, and by L. A. club member Maurice Gould, on behalf of the Club.

UNIQUE MEDAL DISPLAY

Continued

Bringing the medal to a friend in the plastics business, he described his idea: three panels of clear plastic, each cut to accept the 59mm medal in a cut-out with a thin plastic shim to get a force-fit; then, a C-shaped black lucite frame to hold the panels vertically so that they rotate freely, the obverse and reverse then being freely available.

The distinctive medal display is then hung like a painting. To the left of the display is a framed Ben-Gurion/Shazar photo, with a silver victory medal set into deep blue velvet.

Mr. Kameny has been long identified with activities of the Anti-Defamation League, the Council of Jewish Federations, Israel Day Parades and is a specialist in Arab boycott propaganda. He is president of a leading New York advertising agency and of a joint U. S.-Israel public relations firm: Israel Communications, Inc. with officers in both countries.

AN INVITATION

*To A.I.N.A. Members
and Their Families*

To Attend an
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at the

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

Wednesday, August 11th, 6-8 p.m.

during the

*National Convention of the
American Numismatic Association*

Hosts: A.I.N.A. and the Israel
Government Coins and Medals
Corporation

FIRST DAY MEMOIR

(Continued)

Our tour took us to the Port City of Ashdod which is an unforgettable sight that has to be seen to be appreciated. The Roman ruins at Askelon was a change: *the old vs. the new*. Our visit to the *Kibbutz Yod Mordechai* was a pictorial document of the horrors of the camps and ghettos of World War II and a memorial to the Dead. It is something that you can never forget — or allow to happen again.

Sabbath. That night and the next was the Sabbath. Most of us took our own walks through the city of Tel Aviv. I myself found many interesting sights within two or three blocks of the hotel and I had an enjoyable time. I can't forget the sea behind our hotel; the beauty of the breakers and the feeling of the spray is to me a feeling I would like to take back. Wow!

Tomorrow there's more to see!

GOULD'S GELT GUIDE

(Continued)

mon" appears on the obverse within a wreath.

It was a pleasure to visit the comprehensive Kadman Numismatic Museum, under the direction of Dr. Arie Kindler, the learned numismatic scholar. I remember corresponding with Dr. Leo Kadman many years ago about this project and his dream of a numismatic museum was finally fulfilled.

The AINA group met at the Museum and made several presentations, including those by Margo Russell, Eva Adams, Peggy Borgolte and myself. It was an inspiring visit as Dr. Kindler gave us a personal tour. It is a "must" for any coin collectors visiting Israel.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued

to be the first to officially invite you to an *AINA Cocktail Party* to be held on Wednesday, August 11 at 5:30 p. m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

This mid-summer numismatic experience is something which many thousands of families enjoy together. The visit to Washington is a worthy experience for young and old — and while you attend numismatic displays, talks, etc., your family can be richly enjoying everything from the Smithsonian to tours of the various Federal facilities. But please bring your family to the *AINA Cocktail Party*; we'd like to meet them — and have them share some of the goodwill and friendship one finds at these all-too-infrequent occasions.

There is more evidence of AINA vitality in the mail. Take the matter of the AINA reprint of the very important scholarly work, the Paul Romanoff *Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins*. By mail from AINA, by mail from your own clubs, by the announcement in the first *Shekel* of 1971 you were made aware of the opportunity for you to own a copy of this book which you will refer to many times during your lifetime.

Well — the orders have been a confirmation of our confidence in your support of this rather ambitious project. We will sell out all copies during 1971 I believe. If you expect to get a copy for yourself or as a gift to a fellow-numismatist (to whom you are indebted for one reason or another), the time is NOW. A further reprint run would be years away.

And of course, success breeds success. Just as one club formation provides the experience for the formation of the next (see *Club News* for activities of the new groups), we are already at work on another book — this time a scholarly compilation of major articles from Europe which in

the main were not available in English — until AINA suggested it would arrange to publish the lot!

But more of this book later in the year — when the type has been set and the final size, shape, cost, etc. is known.

Of course AINA will be submitting some collector opportunities to you — or bringing to your attention certain items which could be missed. We are especially happy that this issue is in a small way helping to tell the story of Victor D. Brenner, the Jewish sculptor who, if only for the Lincoln penny, made a permanent impact on the numismatic art of America.

See you in Washington! *Shalom!*

Morris Bram, President

TIMNA MINES MEDAL

Continued

ploring expeditions—each a pioneer venture into unknown and dangerous territory.

The Bedouin nomads avoid the wild desolate Aravah canyon on the eastern Negev border but it was here that the nearby Timna copper mines were developed. In 1959 the first copper was mined at Timna and this medal was issued as a presentation piece. It is not known how many medals were presented or to whom.

Metal: Bronze; Edge: Plain; Diameter: 34mm; Weight: 13.5 gm.

OBV: Above in Hebrew, "TIMNA MINES ISRAEL"; below in Hebrew, "FIRST COPPER MINED"; below in Hebrew and English the date, "1959" flanked by olive branches on either side.

REV: Blank except for the number of the medal issued, in this case "273."

Courtesy of: Eli Semmelmann.

DONOR TO PUBLICATION OF ROMANOFF BOOK PRESENTED FIRST COPY



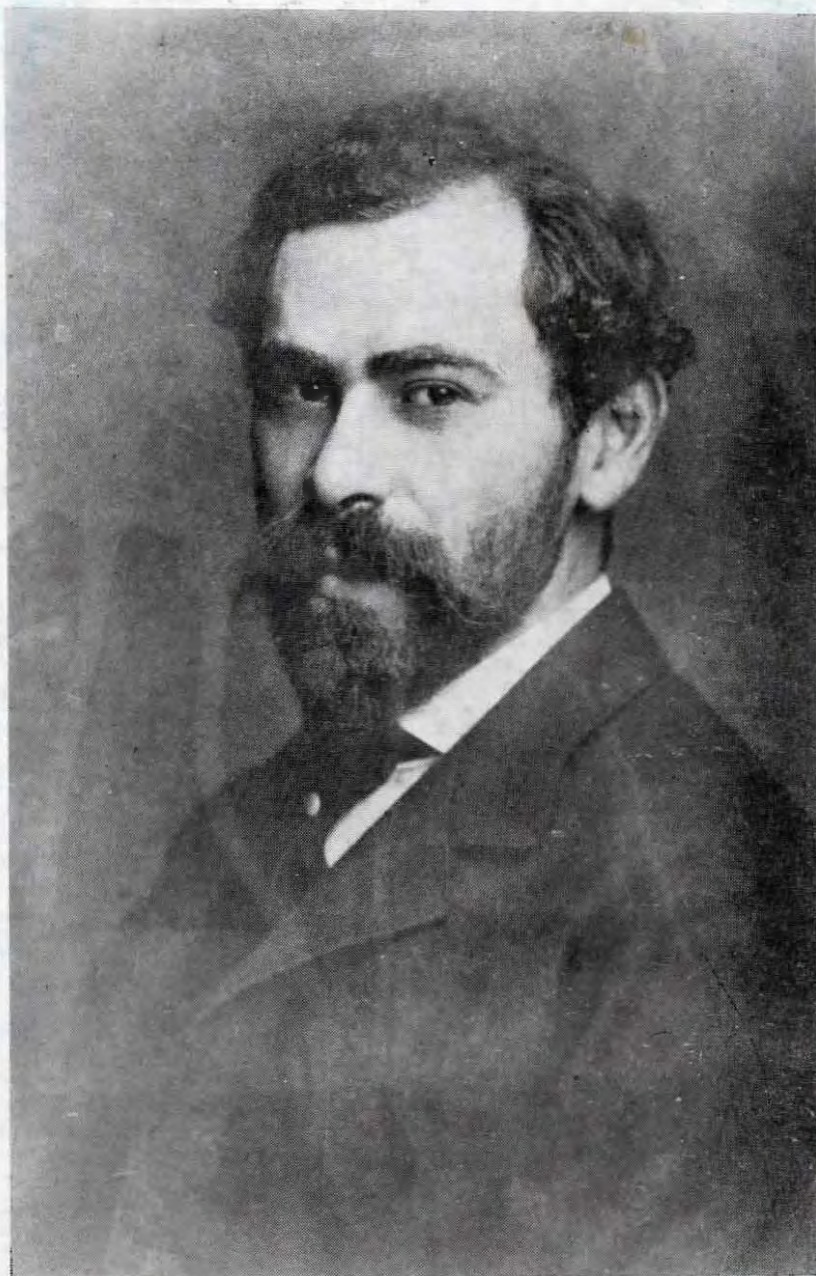
*The first copy of the AINA-sponsored reprint of the Paul Ramanoff book, **Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins**, was presented by a committee of Morris Bram, president of AINA and Ephraim Levy, Director for North America of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, to Israel Cummings, who made a major contribution to underwrite the AINA project. Mr. Cummings, a well-known philanthropist, is also an active numismatist who makes constant gifts of coins of Israel to friends and associates on the important occasions of their lives. The plaques and photographs in the background of the photo depict honors bestowed on Mr. Cummings for years of dedicated philanthropies: children's services, hospitals, education and in numerous ways to Israel.*



UNIQUE MEDAL DISPLAY WINS ATTENTION IN HOME DECOR

Mr. Nat Kameny is a collector of the Israel Government 59mm bronze medals and he wants them to be enjoyed at all times by his family and guests to his suburban New Jersey home.

Continued on page 30



VICTOR DAVID BRENNER

Sculptor of the Lincoln Head Penny
100th Anniversary — June 1971